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East German pair accused of spying

By Peter Almond
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LONDON — In a case more reminiscent of World War II than suggestive of 1986 high technology, a British prosecutor yesterday accused an East German couple with spying for the Soviet bloc.

The couple, Reinhard Schultze, 35, and his 32-year-old wife, Sonja, were accused in London's Old Bailey criminal court yesterday of sending and receiving secret messages to

and from East Germany, of possessing false identity documents, maps and other papers and illegally obtaining a British passport. They pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Schultze, according to prosecutor Allan Green, came to live in London in 1980, Sonja in 1983. Both were using false names and both got jobs, he as an interior decorator and she as a translator.

"Put simply," he said, "they came to live in this country as secret agents or spies for East Germany."

In October 1984, they even went through a marriage ceremony at Hounslow, Middlesex, began using the names Bryan and Ilona Strunze, and set up their household in Cranford, near Heathrow Airport west of London, even though the police say their intention was to gather information and send it back to East Germany by radio.

"The police found a very large number of maps, some of them marked, including a map showing London airport with flight paths marked in," Mr. Green said.

The Schultzes were arrested in August last year. A search of their Cranford house, according to Mr. Green, revealed "spying materials" found in an air freshener, an "escape kit" hidden in a secret compartment

in a travel bag, which consisted of false documents and money useful in a getaway.

The two also were said to have papers containing codes. They received large amounts of money deposited in bank accounts after visits to East Germany.

Mr. Green gave no indication of how British intelligence agents were

put on the trail of the Schultzes in a speech which, he acknowledged, had been made safe for publication by the security authorities.

Fragments of Morse code numbers were found on an audio cassette, Mr. Green told the jury.

Police investigating the couple's finances found they had amassed far more than could be accounted for by the husband's job as a kitchen designer or his wife's as a technical translator.

Sometimes \$3,000 to \$4,500 would be credited to their bank accounts

immediately upon their return from trips abroad, he said.

Mr. Green said the couple told a "well-rehearsed pack of lies" when interrogated by police. Someone, he said, had gone to a great deal of trouble to provide them with documents to support the false identities they had given. Eventually, they admitted their real names but insisted they were not involved in any espionage.

The trial is expected to last for a week.

This article is based in part on wire service reports.